Total proposed reduction in the Ministry's strength is 87 or 38 per cent of the total strength. Besides these, 10 persons working in TPPC and 11 persons of IBM working in the Ministry may be sent back to their parent organizations.

35. Considering that the iron & steel sector was deregulated long back and the PSUs under the Ministry of Mines are already in the process of being disinvested, the existing Ministries of Mines and Steel could be combined into a composite Ministry of Mines and Metals. It could have three separate wings (not departments), one wing for dealing with iron & steel PSUs, another for the PSUs currently under the Ministry of Mines and the third for handling policy and regulatory aspects including GSI, IBM, etc. An Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary level officer could head these three wings, and report to the Secretary of the composite Ministry of Mines and Metals.

Power projects in Rajasthan

*447. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many power projects have been executed in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the financial and other details thereof;

(c) what is the capacity of each of these power projects; and

(d) by when they are likely to start commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) The following power projects have been commissioned during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2001-01 and 2001-02:—

Suratgarh TPS St. I Unit-2 (250 MW)

Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-3 (250 MW)

Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-4 (250 MW)

Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant Units 3 and 4 (2x220 MW)

The details in respect of these projects regarding their date of commercial operation, estimated cost are furnished below:—

Name of the project and capacity (MW)	Date of commercial operation	Estimated approved cost by CEA
Suratgarh TPS St. I Unit-2, 250 MW	23.07.2000	Rs. 1253.31 crore (including cost of Unit-I also)
Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-3, 250 MW	16.01.2002	Rs. 2057.62 crore (combined cost for Units 3 & 4)
Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-4, 250 MW	6/2002 (Expected)	
Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant U 3 & 4, 2x220 MW	1.6.2000 and 23.12.2000	Rs. 2511 crore

In addition to the above, the following wind power projects were established in Rajasthan during the last three years:

(i) 1999-2000	2.0 MW at Jaisalmer
(ii) 2000-01	2.1 MW at Phalodi
	2.25 MW at Devgarh
	10.2 MW commercial wind power projects

Besides, a small hydro project of aggregate capacity of 0.55 MW was also installed in Rajasthan in 1999-2000.

The project cost of wind power projects varies from Rs. 4.5 crores to Rs. 5.0 crores per MW while the cost of a small hydro project is between Rs. 4.0 crores and Rs. 5.0 crores per MW.

BPL in rural areas

†*448. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons living below the poverty line in the rural areas has not been reduced in 90s as per targets because of lack of the availability of employment opportunities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.